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Start your engines
The Kinsmen Club of Minden hosted the 36th annual Truck Pull Show and Shine on Saturday, June 28 at the Minden Fairgrounds. The full day included food and refreshments, as well as a cornhole tournament on-site. See more photos on page 24. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Septic maintenance inspection program draws concerns

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

In 2018, Council requested staff to prepare a request for a proposal to complete a septic re-inspection program for Minden Hills. The re-inspection program is a mandatory program initiated by council to preserve and protect surface water and groundwater quality.

All existing on-site sewage systems regulated by the Ontario Building Code need to be inspected to identify any operational and maintenance concerns. Systems made after 2016 were too new to need inspecting and systems with daily flow exceeding ten thousand litres per day were not included as they are regulated by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks.

In 2020, Council appointed a third party provider to conduct all inspections pertaining to the program. In April of 2024, the program was halted. Since then, the format of the legacy program has been

see SEPTIC page 12

Service delivery review moves ahead with a plan

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

It seems to be an ongoing process, but that's exactly what County CAO Gary Dyke wants out of the ongoing service delivery review. "It's all about efficiencies," said Dyke. "It's looking at how we can best deliver our services."

Dyke spoke to county council on June 25 to provide information and clarification around the project.

The project was originally started in 2022, when county staff started stick-handling the allocation of the 66 services provided from their level of jurisdiction. In a multi-tiered government, with four lower-tiers representing Dysart, Minden Hills, Algonquin Highlands, and Highlands East, plus a county council comprised of representatives from each municipality, there is ongoing community feedback around tax-payers dollars, and what services are included around the municipal affairs.

Dyke hopes to streamline and simplify services, in an effort to address gaps in services across the county. "I think there are some opportunities to also save some money," said Dyke, "but it's all about giving direction around efficiency of our services."

With a new council in place since the original service delivery review, Dyke opted to present a rejuvenated version of the project during county council's May 28 meeting. The new areas of focus will be engineering, communications, human resources, and planning, and noting where there is overlap or gaps between the tiers. "Each of these issues were identified before, and just weren't acted on," said Dyke. "So a lot of the groundwork was there."

At the county's most recent meeting, Dyke presented a model for phase two of the service delivery review, which features county council and local municipal councils on the same page, with a project oversight committee comprised of representatives in each area of focus.

The flow chart has multiple arrows, connecting each organization. "Those arrows go both way for a reason," clarified Dyke. "We may bring something to council, or council may want some modifications,and they would then go back down to the oversight committee."

Dyke noted that this system would allow the CAO to make recommendations from the oversight committee, as opposed to staff groups who made recommendations in the past. He also believes it gives staff an opportunity for career development in the process.

The next step is for Dyke to visit each lower-tier municipality to deliver the same outline, and provide timelines to ensure each group is properly represented while the conversations unfold. The review committees for the areas of focus would include representatives from each municipality, allowing an appropriate voice to be present.

The CAO intends to deliver the lower-tier presentations over the course of the summer, followed by a kick-off meeting slated for August, a familiarization process around the service area review committee, with final draft reports ready by October, followed by the final recommendations to all councils ready by November. "These dates may become fluid," he said, noting he wants to make sure all parties are aligned within the budget parameters.

Dyke said that the outcome of this review is not designed to work towards amalgamation. "That was not the direction I was given," he said. He said his area of focus is primarily cost effectiveness and streamlining efficiencies for all tiers of local government.

Jack Brezina wins Senior of the Year Award

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

From the stage of the Highlands Summer Festival to Bobcaygeon Road during the Santa Claus Parade, there's one face who would be recognized by locals and visitors alike. On Thursday, June 26, Jack Brezina was awarded the Ontario Senior of the Year Award by Minden Hills. Every municipality in Ontario is provided with one award they may give a senior that has enriched the social, cultural, or civic life of their community.

"I'd like to thank the municipality and everyone who was behind getting this handed to me," said Brezina. "We came here in June of 1979, exactly 46 years ago. Of course, we came here because of the newspaper and it looked after us and I raised my family with the newspaper and with Pat's help as well. We just decided this was a great place to stay and we're still here."

Brezina went on to thank his wife Pat for 52 years of marriage and support.

"There are lots of other people who are now seniors or other people in the community who are standing behind me, standing beside me, leading me on. I appreciate all their efforts and everything that goes into making a good community great."

Jack Brezina was presented the Ontario Senior of the Year Award from Bob Carter, Mayor of Minden Hills. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Jack Brezina accepts the Ontario Senior of the Year Award by Minden Council.

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Wheels in motion at Caboose Community Bike Hub

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

The Caboose Community Bike Hub pictured on June 27. /ADAM FRISK staff

The wheels are in motion this summer at the Caboose Community Bike Hub in downtown Haliburton, as the six-month cycling pilot project reaches the halfway mark.

"I think it's been really well received, I'm delighted with the response from the public," Pamela Marsales, Caboose Community Bike Hub project co-ordinator, said during a June 25 interview. "This has been a happening hub of interest and activity."

The cycling hub and information centre is based out of Haliburton's historic CN Rail caboose, in the parking lot at Head Lake Park, next to the visitor information centre.

Initiated by the non-profit organization Friends of the Rail Trail and with the help of a $30,000 seed grant from the provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), Caboose Community Bike Hub officially launched on April 24.

Marsales, a cycling advocate, explained that the historic caboose was collecting dust and had always envisioned it coming back to life in one form or another. When the OTF re-launched the seed grant following a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Marsales said that's when the idea of the hub came together.

"To combine the idea of a bike hub with giving this caboose new purpose, it was a perfect opportunity," the 20-plus year veteran cyclist said.

At the three-month mark, the hub has had some success at times with free community workshops, and has hit a few bumps in the road at other times. But that's par for the course with a pilot project Marsales said.

OTF awarded the grant late last year and some of the concepts of the hub were drawn up in the dead of winter, Marsales explained. There were initial plans to have a bike repair stand at the hub, but the idea hit a snag once the caboose finally came together earlier this year.

"I only had a memory of how large this place was, so once I got into it I realized how compact it is, it would be very difficult to be swinging a bike in here," Marsales said with a chuckle. "We are still planning on getting a stand but it's going to be smaller, more portable to use outside and to bring to workshops."

As for the summer months and moving forward with the pilot project, there are several workshops planned, but Marsales said learning what the public needs to be able to adopt cycling as a form of transportation is a key part of the project.

"It all comes down to getting people through the door here, telling us what they need to get back on a bike, learn how to bike in the first place, gain confidence, learn how to ride safely or what other challenges they are facing," Marsales said.

Learning how to ride a bike in the first place isn't easy. Nailing down how to properly balance can be difficult and a little nerve-wracking, especially for children. An August 8-9 workshop at the hub will be entirely focused on learning to balance on a bicycle.

"We will be looking for volunteers, families to come in here in the interim to let us know they're interested, tell us the ages of their children, do they have bicycles or do they need to borrow a bike," Marsales said. "We can provide bike helmets, too."

The hub is also introducing a weekly ride for those who may be new to the area and had given up cycling but want to get back on the horse so to speak or for those who may be just a little uneasy about riding in the community. The ride-share bikes outside of the caboose will be made available for those who don't have a bicycle for the Thursday rides.

"We are looking to get reluctant riders back on bikes," Marsales said. "I've got several itineraries of different lengths and challenges of rides to help people just get over that 'Oh I can't ride a bike here.' Many people who have come through here have expressed interest in it."

The weekly rides begin on July 3. For more information about the bike hub, stop by the caboose on Tuesdays from 9 a.m to 5 p.m.

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Folk Society unveils '25-26 concert series line-up

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

The Haliburton County Folk Society announced its artists who will support this year's upcoming concert series.

The 2025-2026 concert series will feature five acts performing throughout the Haliburton Highlands, the Folk Society announced on June 23.

"One of the things we are very excited about for this year is we have some up-and-coming artists who people may not be familiar with but after seeing the shows, they're going to be wowed," said artistic director, Sue Shikaze. "We have three acts who are in the earlier stages of their careers but are on a trajectory.

"It's always exciting for us to present artists like that who are going to go places over the next few years," Shikaze said.

> ***"It's always exciting for us to present artists like that, who are going to go places over the next few years"***
>
> — Sue Shikaze, Folk Society Artistic Director

Sandra Bouza and her band will kick off the concert series on Sept. 27 at the Haliburton Legion, performing a mix of rhythm and blues and folk. The Toronto native's album 'A Sound in the Dark' was recently nominated for Contemporary Album of the Year by the Canadian Folk Music Awards. The award-nominated album was also penned, for the most part, at Halls Island Artist Residency, an off-grid artist retreat on Koshlong Lake, providing a special connection to the Haliburton Highlands.

"Sandra Bouza is somebody who is familiar to a lot of folks in Haliburton because she has done a residency at Halls Island," Shikaze explained. "She wrote a lot of songs here, she's performed a couple of times so it's a nice way to give her a full show."

About a month later, contemporary roots singer-songwriter from northeastern Ontario Mimi O'Bonsawin will perform on Oct. 25 at the Highland Hills United Church in Minden. Hailing from the Franco-Ontarian and Abenaki communities, much of O'Bonsawin's rhythm-based, story-driven music is inspired by her own life and embraces the beauty of what the land has to offer.

Skipping forward to early 2026, the folk society will present what's bound to be a foot-stomping show when Union Duke takes to the stage in Haliburton. The five-piece Toronto folk act combines alternative-rock, with bluegrass and country, into a fast-paced, foot-stomping good time. The self-described "two fifths country, two fifths city, and one fifth whisky," Union Duke is set to perform on Jan. 31.

"People are sure to have a really great time at their shows," Shikaze said of Union Duke. "They absolutely rock."

Award-winning duo Dan Parsons and Tracy McNeil, better known as Minor Gold, will bring their undeniable stage chemistry to Minden's Highland Hills United Church on April 18. The Australian-Canadian pair weave distinctive harmonies with folk-rock and deliver dynamic performances.

Closing out the concert series, Jessica Pearson and the East Wind will perform on May 30 at the Legion in Haliburton. The award-winning trio from Ottawa mix folk, Americana and Celtic music to create a unique sound for a versatile show that will get audiences stomping their feet or taking in haunting melodies.

West Guilford forced to shrink Canada Day celebrations

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

The inaugural Canada Day celebration at West Guilford was held in 1980, and has attracted thousands of visitors over the past 40 years.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, West Guilford's Canada Day celebrations saw record attendance. In the past, the celebrations were an entire day's worth of activities. These events included the annual Horseshoe and Pine Lake Swim, field races, talent show, scavenger hunt, games, sawing contests, canoeing events, and paddle board races.

All of these events now seem to be a thing of the past.

No vendors will be attending Canada Day in West Guilford this year either. Due to a lack of volunteers, the only event that will happen during the day is a horseshoe tournament. The tournament will be at 10 a.m. at the community centre. There will still be the traditional fireworks in the evening, but the major events have been cancelled through the day.

For some context, last year's roast beef dinner had hungry visitors lined around the West Guilford Community Centre. Amanda Dovell, secretary for the committee, says that they sold 250 plates of food.

Carm Sawyer, a volunteer with the West Guilford Community Centre, says that the festivities this year will only include the horseshoe competition and a fireworks display in the evening.

"If people don't step up now then this will be a thing of the past," urged Sawyer.

For the past month, the committee has spread the call for volunteers through Facebook and Instagram. In the past, the event relied on word of mouth entirely.

"Nowadays, you don't necessarily know your neighbour," said Dovell.

While several people responded to the call for volunteers and offered their time, they had to pull out at the last minute.

"We need commitment from people sooner than later," said Sawyer.

Sawyer also says that they have detailed guides on how to run the Canada Day events and a list of contacts, but lack the people to put it on.

Dovell says that things have changed a lot since the pandemic. Since lifting social distancing, the committee is still working on what the event will be in a post-pandemic world.

A new volunteer with the committee and longtime West Guilford resident, Dovell wanted to join the committee to keep community events like the Canada Day celebration alive in West Guilford.

"It is sad to see the Community Centre there and nothing is going on," said Dovell.

Dovell notes that in the past, a baseball league and regular bingo events happened at the central community hub, but year after year, the events in West Guilford have dwindled.

Dovell says that Canada Day falling on a Tuesday has been a detriment to their volunteer force.

"People are busy," said Dovell. "We have always noticed that if Canada Day falls in the middle of the week, it is harder for people."

West Guilford's largest event is the Snow Shuffle that happens in February.

"We don't seem to have an issue getting people to help out twitch the Snow Shuffle," said Dovell.

With not a lot happening around the area during February, she says that the Snow Shuffle event draws a large crowd.

"I wish it could come back," said Sawyer, speaking on the Canada Day events.

"We will keep trying to get it going for as long as there's interest," said Dovell.

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A new kitchen for curlers

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott, Ontario Trillium Foundation's Klara Oyler, and Haliburton Curling Club president Wanda Stephen celebrate the official opening of the club's new kitchen facility on June 25. The kitchen, made possible through the OTF, will become a hub where people can connect, learn from each other, and share their knowledge of food and cooking while enjoying the rest of the club's facilities. /ADAM FRISK staff

Duchene reaches for the Stars

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

He's always been a star, but now he wears it on his jersey full time.

Haliburton County's Matt Duchene signed a four year contract with the Dallas Stars on June 19, valued at $18 million, with an average annual value of $4.5 million.

"It's a great feeling," said Duchene. "Obviously when you're 34 years old, there's more hockey behind you than ahead of you, so to be signed for four years shows the faith and trust the Stars have in me to maintain my level of play into my late-thirties."

Duchene racked up 82 points in 82 regular-season games for the Stars this past season, which placed him at the top of the leaderboard for points for the team. He had six points over the Stars' 18 Stanley Cup playoff games.

He was set to have become an unrestricted free agent on July 1, but the Stars swooped in with the deal. "I believe this team has a big window here to achieve (the Stanley Cup), so to now get four more years to try to accomplish that, it's exciting."

Duchene originally joined the Stars in 2023, and has settled his family down in Dallas, which is another reason he's thrilled to stay put a little longer. "Family wise, it's awesome to be able to continue to put down roots in Dallas," he said. "It's an incredible city with similar family and Christian values to our own, so it's been awesome to be a part of and continue to be a part of."

As a father of three, Duchene intends to take the summer off to focus on family. "As you get older, you definitely need more rest and recovery," he said. "And that includes mental rest as well, which is probably the hardest and most important to get, especially if you're wired like I am," he laughed.

He plans on staying active via gym training, and will begin off-season training in the coming weeks. Duchene and his family will return to Haliburton through the summer season before returning to Dallas in the early autumn, where their eldest son, Beau, will be starting school.

Matt Duchene has signed on for another four years with the Dallas Stars, and hopes to push himself for a Stanley Cup win over that time. /submitted

Duchene is optimistic about his future with the Stars. "I want to continue my individual trajectory as long as I can, and also to keep pushing to get over the hump to win a Cup," he said. "It's something I don't take lightly, and will continue to work like I always have."

Minden Health Care Auxiliary set for annual Tag Day

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

The Health Care Auxiliary is gearing up for its annual Tag Day, a fundraising event to support Minden's Health Hub.

Volunteers will be spread out at a number of locations in downtown Minden on July 11, asking for cash donations.

"Tag Day is the auxiliary's biggest, annual retail fundraiser," said Monique Perreault, event co-ordinator for the fundraiser.

Volunteers will be collecting donations at several stores including Pharmasave, Home Hardware, Foodland, Valu-Mart and Tim Hortons from about 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Volunteers will also be on hand to collect donations at Boshkung Social from about 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The auxiliary was formed more than 25 years ago and the more than 40 volunteers have raised over $360,000 for the Minden Haliburton Highlands Health Services site, focusing on the Hyland Crest Long-Term Care facilities.

Last year, the auxiliary raised about $3,500 Perreault said, with the hope of surpassing the amount next week.

"This year we'll see how it goes but we are going to try to accept credit card donations at several locations," Perreault said. "It's a first for us, but last year there were several instances where people wanted to donate using credit. So we're hoping to have credit card available at Tim Hortons this year."

Perreault said funds raised during this year's Tag Day event will go towards the Minden Health Hub, which provides several services to the likes of the women's clinic, urgent care clinic, mental health and the diabetes education network.

The auxiliary is reminding residents to be prepared and have some cash at the ready when running errands on July 11 for the 26th annual Tag Day event.

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Oh Canada

IF YOU were to explain Canada Day to someone who had never heard of the holiday before, how would you start?

Would you lead with the fact that it's the day we officially became a country?

But it was a settled on long before colonizers set foot on the land. Well before that.

Would you explain that it's a day where we honour and celebrate our natural surroundings?

But our politicians are passing bills to destroy our climate. Every day.

Would you share that it's a day we should be proud of our diversity, our inclusion, our empathy we put into the world?

But there's still racism. Still homophobia. Still sexism. Still bigotry.

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

Canada had a recent shot of adrenalin in the form of the 'Elbows Up' campaign; when Trump made some offside comments about capturing Canada as the 51st state, and we realized that in fact, we do have it pretty good.

But that movement brought some questions to the forefront: what is it that we should be proud of exactly?

We all bought the shirts and slathered on the temporary tattoos to say that we are not for sale, that we will Stand On Guard For Thee.

But why?

The most recent federal election showcased the worst of the worst on the forefront; scandals, defamation, bullying. It was exhausting.

And we still stand amongst a great divide; a future uncertain as political polarization continues to stretch and pull at our psyches.

With every spot for celebration on the radar, there is a flip side of fear.

What will our future look like in a world that's being held in place by band-aids and Polysporin; constantly dabbing at the cuts and bruises of our past and present instead of curing the root causes.

Since Canada's inception, we have taken second fiddle to the United States. And that's okay. That's how we like it. It's in our nature to take a step out of the limelight, to give up our seats on the bus, to take the brunt of the burden.

But I think it's time we came out ahead.

Not from a goods and services perspective, or as a producer of blockbuster films or breaking news.

But from a place of kindness. When Trump cut finding to the mental health lifelines across the United States, Canada stepped in and extended their suicide phone lines all across the continent. Mental health knows no boundaries, they said.

We can be better than the places burning around us. We can welcome those in need to cross our borders to safety (that's how we all got here in the first place, don't you remember?). We can offer a future for our kids by prioritizing the environment. We can celebrate art and music and culture and diversity from everyone who deserves to have their voices heard.

We can be better. We can do better.

So when someone asks what Canada Day is, we don't have one or two arbitrary reasons to celebrate: we have a wealth of songs and stories and practices and promises.

We can be better. We can do better.

The power of positive

IT SEEMS we have been sucked into a world where criticism is the dominant discourse. Where holding accountable or being held accountable is the central job description of leaders of all sorts. Where every action elicits an equal and opposite reaction. The result is life unfolding like two teams fighting on a field while observers wear identifying jerseys and respond with competing cheers and jeers. Not life as it was meant to be. Not life as we would like it.

So what is the alternative? First and foremost it's doing the hard work of figuring out what it is we do want, rather than what it is we don't want. We are encouraged to think that we have no choice, or that the choice we must make is self-evident. It's restful to have someone else do the hard thinking for us. It's also safe: doing what we've been told to do is an age-old defense. It is a developmental phase in the raising of civilized humans that many do not advance beyond. That failure is aided by social institutions that actively discourage learning and practicing the skill of independent thought – careless parenting, religion and education come to mind.

Poke, Peel

Pair, Ponder

Fay Martin

The slide toward Strongman leadership that we are currently experiencing is both an indication of and an encouragement toward abandoning our human obligation to be independent thinkers. Independent thought does not preclude coming to agreement with others, moving toward confluence (I would reject consensus) in assessment of our shared reality. The challenge, however, is coming to agreement on what Good looks like.

It's a challenge because it's harder to share Good than it is to share Bad. We rather welcome sharing Bad. It could be argued that shared Bad creates healthy communities, especially if it's a short-term crisis caused by factors outside human control – like weather. Less when it's chronic and attributable to human choices and we take refuge in philanthropy. (Confusing when weather plus climate is a consequence of human activity.)

Sharing Good raises the spectre of fairness. We can sorta agree that no one deserves Badness, that there's more than enough to go around, that no one is apt to claim more than their fair share. Not so with Goodness. We believe and fear that the supply is limited, that there will be competition, that it will not be meted out equitably, that we will have to justify there being winners and losers. We twist ourselves into moral and ethical knots trying to figure out the right way to share Goodness.

Why do we believe that Goodness is limited but Badness is boundless? That Goodness is a zero-sum proposition (what you get I don't) but Badness is universally and endlessly available? Ainsley Hogarth, tucked into a *New York Times* review of Stephen King's most recent book, references 'this insistence that the invention of truth is an inalienable right – sounds painfully familiar'.

Hmm, maybe aptly applied to the idea that Badness is omnipresent and Goodness is a present conferred by… who knows? God? A Strongman? Fate? Hard work? A meritorious life? Maybe that idea is an invention of truth that has been successfully marketed. The idea of original sin, that we are conceived and born in sin and need a Strongman to rescue us from the consequences of an act beyond our control (okay, I imported the Strongman bit), was Augustine's gift to us in the second century and has been well protected against the erosion of time.

So maybe it's time to turn it on its head (as our new Prime Minister Carney is fond of doing when the media ask him questions that invite him to be defensive, and instead gives mini-lessons that divvy his complex perspective into 1-2-3 points) and explore whether Good is or might become omnipresent. If we started with: what does Good look like? Rather than: what is bad in this situation? We might get to focusing on the creation of Good rather than the eradication of Bad.

Because agreeing what Good looks like is just the first step (actually the second, the first being deciding to change focus): it needs to be followed by a collaborative and implementable plan to get from where we are to where we want to be. The magic word there is collaborative, which must be firmly grounded in the idea that Goodness begets Goodness and that there is therefore, inarguably, enough to go around.

Here›s my 1-2-3 take-away: we should resist gawking at the carnage of what's wrong with the world, figure out what we think Good looks like and have meaningful conversations to identify others who share that perspective, and then implement every day in every way the tiny steps that lead toward that grand goal. It's worth a try.

points of view

The hole story

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

NOT LONG ago, I was perusing on-line publications when I noticed a headline that read, *Archaeologists Found 23,000-Year-Old Human Footprints Where They Shouldn't Exist.*

I was in a rush, so I didn't read it. But I am fascinated by the story. I mean, who would have thought they had dining room tables 23,000 years ago?

It must have been one heck of a party.

In any case, headlines like this are why I think archaeologists have the best job in the world. They get to uncover all sorts of cool things. Their discoveries help redefine our history and who we are as a species, which is probably rewarding. But I think we can all agree that the best part of their job is digging holes.

When I was a kid, digging holes was one of the greatest things you could do.

To dig a proper hole, you needed two kids. One kid would use his dad's shovel. The other kid was the lookout for the dad in question.

For some reason, the fathers of my youth had a particular aversion to their kids digging holes – particularly in the front yard or rose garden.

That's because the fathers of my youth did not seem to know about the many practical uses for well-dug hole. If they did, they wouldn't have hidden their shovels so well.

Luckily, hiding them rarely worked as a deterrent – not so long as there was an army surplus store within five miles. The army surplus stores of my day sold the best kind of shovels – the kind that World War II heroes used to carry.

These, according to the guy who ran the store, were the exact same shovels that were used on D-Day to dig foxholes for our troops. Not to brag but my guy liked me, so he sold me several shovels that had formerly been used by Victoria Cross recipients, which is why I paid a premium for each of them.

When you owned a shovel like that, it was practically unpatriotic not to use it.

Most kids would start by digging rudimentary foxholes, just to break the shovel in. The average lawn of a kid with a new shovel could have served as a defensive position for an entire infantry platoon.

Once you honed your shovelling skills, you would advance to digging a lion trap. For those who missed out on this experience, a lion trap was simply a deeper foxhole that was covered by a picnic blanket. When the lion fell in, you would rush over, grab the corners of the blanket and quickly tie it up like a trash bag. Easy peasy.

Many younger people are probably shaking their heads and thinking: Hold it! There are no lions in Canada.

You're welcome.

I never personally caught a lion, but I did catch my father in one, so I know what the experience would have been like.

I also know for a fact that on the summer of my ninth birthday, there were at least 20 lion traps in our neighbourhood alone, which I'm pretty sure put a huge dent in our local lion population.

A good hole could also serve as an in-ground pool, a well, or a serviceable basement for your pup tent. Or simply a place to hide your dad's shovel.

To be honest, I thought those days were long gone. But the other day I saw a couple of kids walking towards a rose garden with shovel in hand.

It made my heart glad. Who says shovelry is dead?

pic *of the* past

THE FIRST production of *Mary Poppins* in Haliburton happened in 1968. It was presented by the Lakeview School, Grade 6 to 8. Principal: Stuart Baker. From left, Glenda Burke (Mary Poppins); Gerry Donaldson (Mr. Banks); Sharon Maughan (Mrs. Banks); Marilyn Thayer (Jane); George Thayer (Bert); Stephen Baker (Michael). Director was Bill Gliddon. Thank you to Bill Gliddon for providing this photo. /FILE

Remembering our goodness

Tales from the great Green meadow

Lynda Shadbolt

TARA BRACH, a much loved international meditation teacher and author, says "The practice of seeing goodness awakens loving kindness, which enables us to move through life more awake to the goodness within and around us."

The ancient practices of yoga, meditation and qigong ask us to remember our own goodness with every breath we take. In these practices we are awakening our hearts and our wisdom to live our best life. And we take those big hearts and wisdom into our families and communities.

These ancient practices remind us that we are connected to all of life that is around us. The trees, the flowers, the turtles and the bees. We are connected and we all matter. Those of us that get to live and cottage and visit this county have the opportunity to get outside often. Being in nature connects to the stillness and the quiet that is in the earth beneath our feet. The stillness and quiet that is in us is what senses it around us and beneath us.

Jack Kornfield invites his students to sit outside every day for a couple of minutes and breathe with the trees. Breathe with all of life. It is a beautiful way to start or end a day. And it connects us to goodness. It is a practice that is calming, and soothing for our nervous system, which can get wound up when we are stressed, worried, fearful, tired or feeling unwell.

Being in nature helps to regulate our nervous system. Nature, the forest and the trees and the pond and the birds and the flowers are a big part of the programs that run at the Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre. I teach yoga, qigong and meditation at the retreats that are for people living with cancer and their caregivers.

Sometimes we practice inside, but when we can, we are out on the deck or the dock. Other staff lead forest walks which are also known as forest therapy or forest bathing. It is a mindful practice where participants spend time in nature, particularly in a forest, to promote physical and mental well-being.

Participants are invited to slow down and practice being present with the trees and all of life that they observe. It is another way of regulating our nervous system, and remembering the goodness that is around us. Brooksong is starting its annual fundraising event for its fifth year. Many teams are creating challenges that they will complete and hope to get sponsored for. I am on a team called Furball Yogis, and our team is made up of our dogs and cats who are pledging to be on the yoga mat with their owners for the 62 days of the challenge. The Furball Yogis and their owners will be celebrating all the goodness that is around us, and in us. For more information about the Haliburton Highlands Challenge for Brooksong please check out brooksong.ca and go to the HHC page. All of the teams for Brooksong wish goodness for all this summer!

Minden Memories

Can you guess where this photo was taken? Do you recognize the angle? /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

letters to the editor

Bill 5 concerns

To the Editor:

On June 11, I read your recent, passionate opinion piece regarding Ontario's Bill 5. Most people voted for the PC Party of Ontario with the knowledge that we need to get projects moving forward. So many people cannot afford a home (supply and demand). Costs continue to grow. Critical minerals are, well, critical, to future projects in electric cars, defense, and infrastructure. Determining how to access them more quickly benefits all people. Obviously, having respectful, relationships with First Nations, and respecting Treaty rights is part of the solution. But doing nothing means that we continue to erode as a country.

The federal government, which partly pays for your newspaper, also just passed Bill 5 (Senate approval on June 26). First Nations are very concerned about Bill 5. Environmental groups are up in arms. I am hoping that regardless of whether the federal government pays for your newspaper, you will have a very similar story about the federal Bill 5 as you did for the provincial Bill 5. To quote your opinion piece you state "Moving forward, as an editor, I will not shy away from showcasing the decisions our elected officials make: even if those votes happen beyond the boundary lines. We need to start caring about the decisions these select few – the ones we apparently voted for – make about our lives. About our world. About our future".

You also call out MPP Laurie Scott for supporting Bill 5. Now, the Canadian government and the Ontario government have both passed very similar bills. The vast majority of Canadian representatives have expressed the views of their constituencies. MPP Scott is of a very large group of elected officials in Canada that feel we need to promote national projects.

Please be consistent in your next editorial piece regarding Bill 5. I don't want to diminish your passion. We need it. But it would be a significant bias to call out the Doug Ford government (which doesn't subsidize your paper) and not call out the federal government that does pay for the *Haliburton Echo.*

Kelly Mitchell
Haliburton

HCPL's Book of the Week

DONNA JONES ALWARD
A NOVEL OF THE 1917 HALIFAX EXPLOSION
WHEN THE WORLD FELL SILENT
"An impressive and assured historical fiction debut."
JENNIFER ROBSON, internationally bestselling author of The Gown

1917. Halifax, Nova Scotia. Nora Crowell wants more than her sister's life as a wife and mother. As WWI rages across the Atlantic, she becomes a lieutenant in the Canadian Army Nursing Corp. Across town, widowed Charlotte Campbell endures life with in-laws who scorn her, finding hope only in her baby daughter.

When tragedy strikes in Halifax Harbour, nothing for these two women will ever be the same again. Their paths will cross in the most unexpected way, trailing both heartbreak and joy in its wake...

When the World Fell Silent by Donna Jones Alward is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Plans underway for Canoe FM's Radiothon

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Get your fingers ready on that dial, the Canoe FM Radiothon is coming to your airwaves soon.

Right now, the local radio station is in a flurry as they prepare for the 16th edition of their Canoe FM Radiothon.

Soon enough, Canoe FM's signs will be all over community event boards in the county, reminding everyone that the radiothon is underway.

Their recording studio is currently filled with a variety of items donated from community members and businesses. The items are currently listed for their online auction, viewable at canoefm.com/radiothon-2025-bidding.

Items in the online auction include original artworks, handknitted afghans, gift certificates towards local businesses, Exclusive Club Blue Jays tickets, an Audio Technica turntable, a party prize kit by Boshkung Brewing, a cruise and dinner experience, clay shooting experience at Haliburton Forest, guided fishing trips, and home concert performances by local musicians.

Roxanne Casey, station manager for Canoe FM, says that the photos of the paintings and the handknitted afghans do not do the pieces justice. Interested bidders are heavily encouraged to come to the radio station in person and see the artistry that went into each item.

Make sure that you have your bids submitted before July 6 at 6 p.m.

Casey says that Canoe FM raised around $50,000 with last year's Radiothon.

"I would love to raise that again this year," said Casey.

Keep your ears tuned in during the Radiothon as Canoe FM will also be auctioning pop-up items as well. These items can only be bid on by calling over the phone. Listeners will also be able to dedicate songs and send out messages with a donation.

To place your on-air auction bids or request a song dedication, please call 705-457-1009.

Canoe FM is a nonprofit organization that runs entirely on money from advertisers, bingo, lottery contests, and donations from the public. From helping families find their lost dogs, giving up and coming artists a platform, and facilitating new music discoveries, Canoe FM is entirely dedicated to the Haliburton community.

> ***"The Radiothon is the most important fundraiser for us as it doesn't rely on the lottery license.***
>
> — Roxanne Casey, Canoe FM Station Manager

"The radiothon is the most important fundraiser for us as it doesn't rely on the lottery license," said Casey.

The funds raised during the Radiothon can go towards rent, utilities, and communication costs. With their other fundraising programs of bingo and draws, the funds can only go towards broadcasting expenses.

Recently, residents of Minden and Algonquin Highlands have noticed that Canoe FM is now broadcast on 97.1. Using funds from Radio Bingo, Canoe FM installed a radio tower along Scotch Line Road in Minden. Local community initiatives and nonprofits also benefit from their Radio Bingo game on Tuesdays, as they split the profits with them.

Come July 4, the radio station will be a buzz with hosts, laughter, and the community coming together to keep the community radio station thriving. Everyone is invited to come in, tour the radio station, and share any stories you would like with them.

"Come in, look around, and see what the money has been used for," urged Casey.

"Without our volunteers, without our listeners, and without our advertisers, the station wouldn't be here," said Casey. "We are grateful for our community."

Paving scams on the rise across Ontario

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is advising community members to be cautious of possible paving and repair scams across the province.

Individuals may offer to pave driveways, fix roofs, or do other home repairs, often claiming it's a "one-day-only deal." They may seem professional, with flyers and websites, but they often use fake names, false ID, and unmarked vehicles. They ask for cash up front, then leave behind poor-quality work, or never return at all.

The OPP would like the public to know that these scams usually happen between April and October and often go unreported. If someone shows up at your door offering services you didn't request, don't feel pressured. Take your time, talk to a trusted friend or family member, and report anything suspicious to police.

These types of scams happen on a regular basis and can be avoided by these simple tips/reminders.

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Proper businesses don't need to knock on doors-they're usually already busy.
- Always check out the company first and read the whole contract.
- If you think it might be a scam, call your local police.

The OPP urges residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious paving offers or contractor activity. If you believe you have been targeted by a paving scam, contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca

For more information on how to recognize and protect yourself from scams, visit www.ontario.ca/page/identify-scam-or-fraud.

Submitted

School trustee Gary Brohman delivers a heartfelt motivational speech to the JDH grads.

Travis Rowe with vice-principal Teressa Bird following Travis's valedictorian address on June 24. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

JDH grads cross the stage

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It was a night of celebration and always just a little bit of sadness, as the Grade 8 students at J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School graduated, and prepare to move down the hill to Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. The elementary school gymnasium was packed on the hot summer evening last Tuesday, with parents and guardians showing up to celebrate their students.

JDH principal Dave Waito noted that he has "a special place in his heart" for the graduating class, as they started Grade 4 the same year he started in his role as principal, saying that they had grown together. He shared that when the students started at JDH, the world was just coming out of the COVID-19 years - there were lockdowns, cohorts, masking, and frequent handwashing stations. But he was proud of the endurance and resilience the students showed during their years at the school. "Congratulations grads," he said. "You did it. Now, go make it happen."

"It has been an absolute honour to be a part of your life," said Grade 8 teacher Andrew Dawson, "and we truly wish you all the best on your future endeavours."

The following students were honoured with notable awards at the graduation ceremony:

Award of Academic Excellence
Quinn Hamilton
Claire Lynch
Brooklyn Bjelis

Award of Outstanding Distinction
Anika Suke
Kendall Park

Citizenship Award
Jacob Manning

Principal's Award for Student Leadership
Kendall Park

Athletes of the Year
Travis Rowe
Lyla Degeer
Kendall Park

Level Up Award
Jackson Trautman-Coyle
Aaron English
Maya Parish

STEM Award
Duncan Evans-Fockler

Canadian Parents for French Award
Jacob Manning
Brooklyn Bjelis

Valedictorian
Travis Rowe

Pictured, far right, Maya Parish is receives her elementary school diploma
Centre top, Kendall Park earns Athlete of the Year.
Centre bottom, Clair Lynch receives the award of Academic Excellence.
Below, Duncan Evans-Fockler gets the STEM award.
/EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Congratulations to the graduating Archie Stouffer Elementary School's class of 2025. This year marked the school's 64th Grade 8 graduation ceremony. Hudson Meyer was the valedictorian. "It seemed like it was only yesterday when we were little kids, wandering the halls, wondering who would be our next best friends," opened Meyer. During the speech, Meyer also quoted Muhammad Ali saying "If they can make penicillin out of moldy bread, they can sure make something out of you." Meyer ended his speech by saying "Wildcats, let's make our school proud," and "Previously, I mentioned all the people I would like to thank, but I left one person out and that person is my mother. You had always been there for me when I needed it most. She will forever be in my heart." /THOMAS SMITH staff

ASES grads look to chapter ahead

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Families celebrated their biggest celebrities on Friday, June 13 at Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grade 8 graduation ceremony. With a Hollywood theme, all graduates were dressed in their fanciest attire.

Alongside the glamour, there was an air of nerves and accomplishment of the Grade 8 relishing in their completion of ASES. The school's gymnasium was full of student's parents, guardians, and family members, with not an empty seat in the house.

ASES principal Mike Gervais shared that this year's ceremony was bittersweet, as it would also be his last graduation as principal. Gervais shared that he was immensely proud of the students and knows that they are ready to take high school on. Throughout the ceremony, graduates shared their goals for the future, their favourite quote, and who their biggest inspiration is. The most common jobs mentioned involved content creation, and their biggest inspirations were their family members.

The following students were honoured with notable awards at the graduation ceremony:

Honours
Addison Kulas
Derek Weerdenburg
Leah Allder
Adaya Kegel
Moss Davis
Ava Joseph
Charm Sketchley
Lyla Spencer
Gerard Sprunt
Caelin Stevens
Jessalynn Thompson
Liam Frith
Elyse Kernohan
Hudson Meyer
Adiya Mills
Kinzey Bull

Academic Effort
Easton Hudson
Kassidy Newell
Kadyn Gillooly
Jordyn Lawrance
Charlotte Wilson
Chloe Wilson
Piper Kelly
Ryder Hudson
James Cox

Arcadia Masonic Lodge Award
Charlotte Wilson
Chloe Wilson
Ryder Hudson
Piper Kelly

ASES Citizenship Award
Jessalyn Thompson
Blake Hutchinson
Adiya Mills
Brycen Harrison

Academic Excellence Award
Addison Kulas
Lyla Spencer

Character Education Award
Kinzey Bull
Jordyn Lawrance
Adaya Kegel
Leah Allder

Sarah Bloomfield Award
Addison Kulas

Athletic Achievement Award
Hudson Meyer
Elyse Kernohan
Ryder Hudson
Kadyn Gillooly
Kinzey Bull

Principal All-Round Student Award
Hudson Meyer
Elyse Kernohan

This year's winners of the ASES Principal Award, presented by Mike Gervais. /submitted

Pictured, the Grade 8 graduating class of Wilberforce Elementary School during their graduation ceremony last week. In total, 11 students will be moving on to the high school next year. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Wilberforce grads move ahead with pride

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Students from Wilberforce Elementary School donned their green robes and caps on June 25 as they crossed the stage at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre, marking their next steps towards their future.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the school's beloved principal, Gord Wood, was honoured by school trustee Gary Brohman, as Wood is entering his era of retirement. "Mr. Wood is filled with integrity, character, and love for kids," said Brohman. "Everywhere he went, it was about his character and his leadership."

With the small population of the school, staff included all members of the school, from Grades 4 to 8, in the end of year ceremony, recognizing student contributions from all grades.

In total, 11 Grade 8 students graduated, and are heading to Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in the fall.

One special award was recognized for the graduating students: the Taylor Donaldson Leadership Award. Named in honour of Wilberforce student Taylor Donaldson, who passed away ten years ago. "My Taylor loved school," said his mother, Laura Fideau, who presented the award, "He loved to learn everything he could, and he loved to read. He also loved to help others in any way he could, fellow students and teachers alike. If he could help someone, even if it was just to make them smile, he was so happy."

The award isn't for best grades. It was for trying your best, helping others, and being the best person you could be. "It's an honour to see the spirit of Taylor carrying on throughout the years," said his mother. This year, the award was given to Christopher Michael Sandy Fillier, who was co-valedictorian as well.

Wilberforce graduates are as follows, with awards included in brackets if applicable:

- Jackson Robert Amos (Citizenship Award)
- Faith Elanor Barbra Bailey McLeod
- Joel David Carisse
- Taytum Dawn Cox (Academic Award)
- Christopher Michael Sandy Fillier (Taylor Donaldson Award and co-valedictorian)
- Samuel James Alexander Hamill
- Kaitlynn Marie LaFontaine (Perseverance Award)
- Shiva Lynn MacIsaac (co-valedictorian)
- Wyatt John Samuel Russett
- Bentley William Sarginson (Most Improved Award)
- Tara Olivia Tucker (French Award)

Above, co-valedictorians Christopher and Shiva take to the stage during graduation.

Grads wait patiently as fellow students are celebrated at the end of year ceremony.

Jackson Robert Amos was awarded the Citizenship Award. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Minden Hills's roads department gets new wheels

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

In 2022, Minden Council approved the purchase of a new truck and plow for their public works department.

The report to Council said that the current fleet of vehicles is sufficient for the 2025-2026 winter season, encouraging council to consider the tandem truck for the 2026 budget.

"If you don't take this truck now, then you'll get to the bottom of the list?" asked Bob Sisson, Ward 3 councillor, during last week's council meeting. "So how long is it going to be after the 2026 budget deliberation?"

"That's difficult to tell. We did wait a couple of years for our last one. We do feel like we can stretch it to that delivery date," said Mike Timmins, director of public works.

"I am thinking we should buy it," said Tammy McKelvey, councillor at large. "Thank you very much for wanting to stretch it out. Sometimes that costs more money. If we wait and put this out to bid next year, we'll wait one to two years to get it. It could be a higher rate. This [money] is coming from a reserve. So whether it comes from the reserve this year, or next year, or the year after, it really doesn't impact the bottom tax levy. I would like council to consider buying this."

"That is exactly why the report is before you," said CAO Cynthia Fletcher. "We didn't feel as staff, we could make the decision."

"While staff are doing their best to manage and maintain our equipment in great repair, these things take a long time," said Fletcher. "We can almost guarantee it will be more money down the road."

"We don't want to go on the bottom of the list, that's for sure. It would take way too long to get back to where we are needing to be," said Ivan Ingram, Ward 1 Councillor.

The motion was then changed to purchasing the tandem truck.

"I think this helps the operation going forwards as far as having a better spare," said McKelvey.

The decision to purchase the truck was unanimous. The tandem truck will cost $357,000 and will be acquired from Winslow-Gerolamy Motors Limited, a truck dealer based in Peterborough.

Septic re-inspection bumped to 2026 budget

from page 1

under review.

After meeting with local industry leaders, staff proposed streamlining and expediting the inspection process to Council on Thursday, June 26. Eric Guay, chief building inspector, proposed the idea to eliminate the need to inspect class 1 (outhouses) and class 3 properties (cesspools).

There are 2,900 properties that remain needed to be inspected.

Guay noted that zones A, B, and C were completed. Zones D1, D2, D3, E1, and E2 remain to be inspected.

Staff proposed to do inspections based on class 2 (grey water pits), class 4 (leaching beds), and class 5 (holding tanks). They have been working with their permit provider Cloudpermit to create an inspection list for qualified third party inspectors. Staff would follow up with any noted remedial actions necessary.

"I am not sure that zone c was actually completed," noted Mayor Bob Carter. "I happen to live there. They certainly didn't get to [my property]".

Carter says that the inspection company was going to reschedule their inspection of his septic system, but never rescheduled.

"As I talked to neighbours, I think there were quite a few that either didn't get an inspection or get a report after an inspection," said Carter. "I think it was an incredible disappointment of the performance of the people who were hired. However you come up with a new program, we have got to take all that into account."

Fletcher replied saying that staff have spent much of 2025 discussing how they will manage the information and data related to the inspections. The intention was to update the council on their progress, not their fully fleshed out program.

Fletcher said that they would be happy to take recommendations in the future approaching next year's budget.

Guay proposed a hybrid model between a class 3 and class 4 septic system.

"The only thing you would not get out of the hybrid model is the mandatory pump out," said Guay. Sludge and scum levels would be measured and if they are a third of the volume of the septic tank, the township can enforce a pump out.

Ward 2 Councillor Pam Sayne expressed concerns that she has heard issues with legacy outhouses on properties in Minden Hills.

"We still have places where the primary septic system is an outhouse," said Sayne. "These places were built so long ago and sometimes on water. I think the outhouses should be examined to some extent."

"We don't want to leave it up to people's neighbours and whether they complain to the municipality or not."

Guay said that they do not have the resources to do the physical side of the inspections, but possibly the administrative aspect.

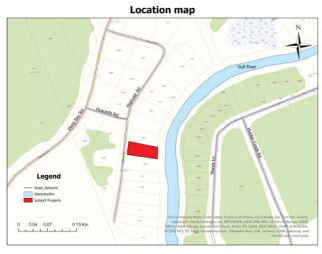
The new re-inspection program will be part of the budget process of 2026, says Fletcher.

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received an application to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024076:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of the Gull River lying in front of 1089 Mistivale Road, located within Part Lot 6, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Lutterworth



The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on July 25, 2025.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than July 25, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced application will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

Minden Vitality Working Group in early phases

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

> ***"There is an immediate need to focus attention on strengthening our downtown."***
>
> — Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter

On Thursday, June 26, Mayor Bob Carter told Council that the Community Engagement program has resulted in feedback used to create the Townships Strategic Priority Plan. They intend to create the new Minden Village Vitality Working Group which will look at improvements to Minden that can be completed as short-term and achievable initiatives, identify opportunities and hurdles, recommend a phased implementation plan, recommend ways to overcome hurdles and capitalize on opportunities, and to support a communication program that will promote village vitality initiatives.

Mayor Carter noted that there is a priority to creating a long-term vision and plan for the village of Minden.

An urgency for strengthening Minden's downtown core has been shared through the program. Before any long-term plans or work is done, the township is interested in forming a Working Group.

"There is an immediate need to focus attention on strengthening our downtown," said Carter. "I'd like to strike a Working Group to explore opportunities to enliven our village core. There are some things we can do immediately in the short-term that will make a difference to the atmosphere. Working together, we can make some improvements."

Mayor Carter intends to chair the group, with the rest of the group composed of the Ward 1 Council members, service club representatives, business representatives, and community members.

The CAO, Cynthia Fletcher, will be assisting the group and will be their main contact for assistance.

"This is an idea to get some ideas and hopefully, to reach some sort of consensus of good ideas to come to us," said Carter. "Whether it was the idea of moving where the crosswalk was, or improving the lighting, whatever these things might be, we just need to get them here so we can get moving on them quicker without having to wait for a formal plan."

"I want to say thank you for bringing this forward," included Ward 2 Councillor Pam Sayne. "It's been a longtime need and it's good to see we have some formal communications through this taskforce to get things rolling."

MH looks at fixing roof of Cultural Centre, Curling Club

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

On Thursday, June 26, Eric Guay, chief building inspector, brought information back regarding the roof conditions of the Minden Curling Club and the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

Currently, the Curling Club's roof is a pitch galvanized steel roof.

"Based on engineering review, it is well past its end of life," said Guay. "Its gutters and stuff has all rotted out and it is not in very good condition. It is expected to have been completed sometime in 1980.

During the 2025 budget discussions, council approved of $257,500 to be paid from reserves to offset the costs of the roof system, with the expectation of the remaining coin to be paid for by grant funding.

The application for the funding was not successful.

The Cultural Centre's roof was completed in 2007 and received excessive damage during this year's harsh ice storm. Both engineering firms consulted agree that a new design to lessen the impact of ice, snow and water buildup is needed. Water has also been seeping into the Cultural Centre from the ground.

"Why did we need the engineering on the Curling Club?" asked Mayor Bob Carter.

"The engineering on the Curling Club was there because of the situation and the building that it's in, was to ensure that the roof structure is capable of supporting any additional work that is being done to it. As well, there is an issue with condensation on the interior side so there is an insulation aspect of it too that needs to be reviewed by the engineer."

Tatham Engineering requested $37,500 for their efforts.

No cost for the roofing systems have been determined yet. If the plan goes through, Guay is confident that the project with the Curling Club could be completed this year.

"We are being ambitious and hopeful that we can push things ahead," said Guay.

"They have done so much work inside [the Curling Club] I would hate for that to be undone because of the roof," added Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell.

Council voted in favour of staff to direct Tatham Engineering to conduct their engineering services.

Fun in the sun at ASES

Even in the crazy heat last week, Archie Stouffer students enjoyed an outdoor fun day including community partners from Haliburton Highlands OPP, Minden Hills Fire and Hydro One. /submitted

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Haliburton Highlands Secondary School principal Jenn Mills smiles with a graduating student. /ADAM FRISK staff

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School principal Jenn Mills addresses the 2025 graduates and family members.

HHSS celebrates the class of 2025

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School celebrated the graduating class of 2025 last Thursday, as students said goodbye to teachers and staff. Principal Jenn Mills spoke in front of a packed gymnasium, addressing the "courage and resilience" of this year's graduates.

"Thank you for making me smile everyday, you are the best part of my job," Mills said, closing out her speech. "As you walk off the stage tonight, remember you are not empty handed. You carry with you the lessons, the memories, the strengths and the hopes of this place and of the people who believe in you.

"High school may be over but your journey is just beginning," Mills said.

Class valedictorian Miles Bascombe addressed the graduating class for a final time on Thursday, thanking classmates while telling them to embrace the change that lies ahead.

Dozens of awards and bursaries were handed out to the graduating class. A full list of award recipients will be printed in next week's paper.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School 2025 valedictorian Miles Bascombe addresses the graduating class

Burnt Crust Pizzaria ready to sling hot pies

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Avi Bergman and Katrina McCallum are excited to open Burnt Crust Pizzaria in the coming weeks. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Imagine preparing to open your first restaurant and at the same time, you have a baby due in two weeks.

That is the reality for Katrina McCallum, owner of Burnt Crust Pizzaria (and yes, that spelling is intentional).

"We didn't notice that pizzeria was misspelled on the sign," said Avi Bergman, McCallum's husband, with a laugh. "But we are gonna keep it and just roll with it."

Their new restaurant sits in the old Algonquin Outfitters building at 12667 Highway 35. No remnants of either the outfitters or the bait and tackle shop remain.

Their pizza oven immediately grabs your gaze looking into the kitchen. Their massive oven, made by Marra Forni, can cook 10 pizzas at once. While baking, the stone rotates the pizza, providing an easier bake and increasing pizza-making efficiency.

Every day for the past few weeks, the couple have been preparing dough and baking pizzas, getting ready for when the restaurant eventually opens.

McCallum says the duo has shaved down their time to two minutes per pizza.

While the couple have been living in Minden the past five years, McCallum is from New Tecumseth and her husband is from Toronto.

"We like to classify ourselves as local," said McCallum.

"We love it here," said Bergman.

Burnt Crust Pizzaria is the duo's first venture into owning and operating a restaurant. With the couple regularly hosting pizza nights with family and friends, their response was always positive and encouraged them to open their own restaurant. After years of testing doughs, sauces, and tasting pizza after pizza, McCallum decided to take the leap and put her heart and soul into making Burnt Crust a reality.

"While I haven't worked in big commercial kitchens, food has always been a huge part of my life," said McCallum. She also noted that her love of making food was fostered through her mother and grandmother.

"What I might lack in formal restaurant jobs, I make up for in passion, quality, and hands-on practice."

Their pizzas are made Neapolitan style, with thin crust and raised, bubbly edges. All of their dough is made by hand and left to rest and ferment for 24 hours before getting baked. This fermentation process increases both flavour and texture, resulting in the iconic bubbly and chewy crust of authentically made Italian-style pies.

As the dough ferments, it also becomes more easily digestible, says McCallum.

After living in New Brunswick for several years, McCallum knew that she had to bring some flavours of the East coast to Minden. Therefore, she makes her own donair sauce for people to dip into the pizza. While they do not have a donair pizza yet, she is certainly open to the idea.

McCallum says that her favourite part about owning her own restaurant is feeding people.

"I love creating meals that bring people together. There's something beautiful about sitting down for a meal with your family, or laughing over a slice with friends. Food is comfort," said McCallum. "It's a celebration. And for me, being able to provide that to others - especially in a small town like ours - is incredibly fulfilling."

Their menu is simple, with 10 base combinations. Before opening, McCallum is confident their garlic fingers and donair sauce combination will become a great selling item.

"I don't like cooking the same thing over and over, so we're planning to introduce a new weekly special," said McCallum. "Could be a new pizza, a sandwich, maybe a pasta. We want the menu to grow with our customers and their tastes."

McCallum and Bergman have no concerns about the other local pizza-based restaurants across the county.

"I'm not going to compare our pizzas because they are very different," said McCallum.

McCallum says that Burnt Crust Pizzaria stands out for three reasons.

"First, we're deeply local and family-run. You're not just supporting a business - you're supporting a household, a new baby, and a dream," said McCallum. "Second, everything we do is about quality over quantity - from the ingredients we use to the way we treat our customers. And finally, it's the vibe. We built this space to feel welcoming, cozy, and fun. With our big patio, family-friendly atmosphere, and rotating specials, it's not just a place to eat - it's a place to hang out."

Every week, the restaurant will have a different feature pizza available. This will let them expand their offerings and flex their creativity, while trying out new foods. With each feature pizza, they hope their customers will let them know what they like and did not like.

While they will offer takeout, the restaurant recommends eating inside, to have your pizza at its freshest and enjoy their ambiance and full patio.

McCallum says that the owners from the Riverside, Boshkung Brewing, Minden River Cone, and Mason Jar have visited and either helped them out with getting things set up or offered advice.

"We have gotten a lot of input," said McCallum. "People around here have been so helpful."

Getting things rolling with Minden Hills has also been smooth sailing, says McCallum.

"The township has been great to deal with," said McCallum. "All of it. I have been surprised with how smooth they have made the process for us."

While the couple received the keys to the building last year, the renovations took many months. Starting from nothing, she says they were lucky that they could design the kitchen exactly how they wanted.

"Navigating permits, building timelines, and the learning curve of setting up a restaurant - it's all been a big journey," said McCallum. "Every challenge has made us better, and we've had amazing support from the community."

The couple also plan on getting a liquor license to offer beer, wine, and coolers with their food.

This past weekend, Burnt Crust Pizzaria received their approval from the health department, and were officially able to open their doors to the public, just in time to catch the long weekend traffic through Minden.

"In five years, I'd love to see Burnt Crust as a local staple - the go-to pizza spot in the Highlands," said McCallum. "I want to expand our menu, offer more community events, but more than anything, I want us to still feel like home for the people who walk through our doors."

Ready to rip

Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre hosted their annual Watercross weekend on Saturday, June 28, drawing large crowds to watch the water sports on the property. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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SUDOKU

3		6						7
			4		5			8
				6		4		
								1
		3	9				8	
9	6	1		4		2		
			1			9		
	8	4	7	9		5		
	9							2

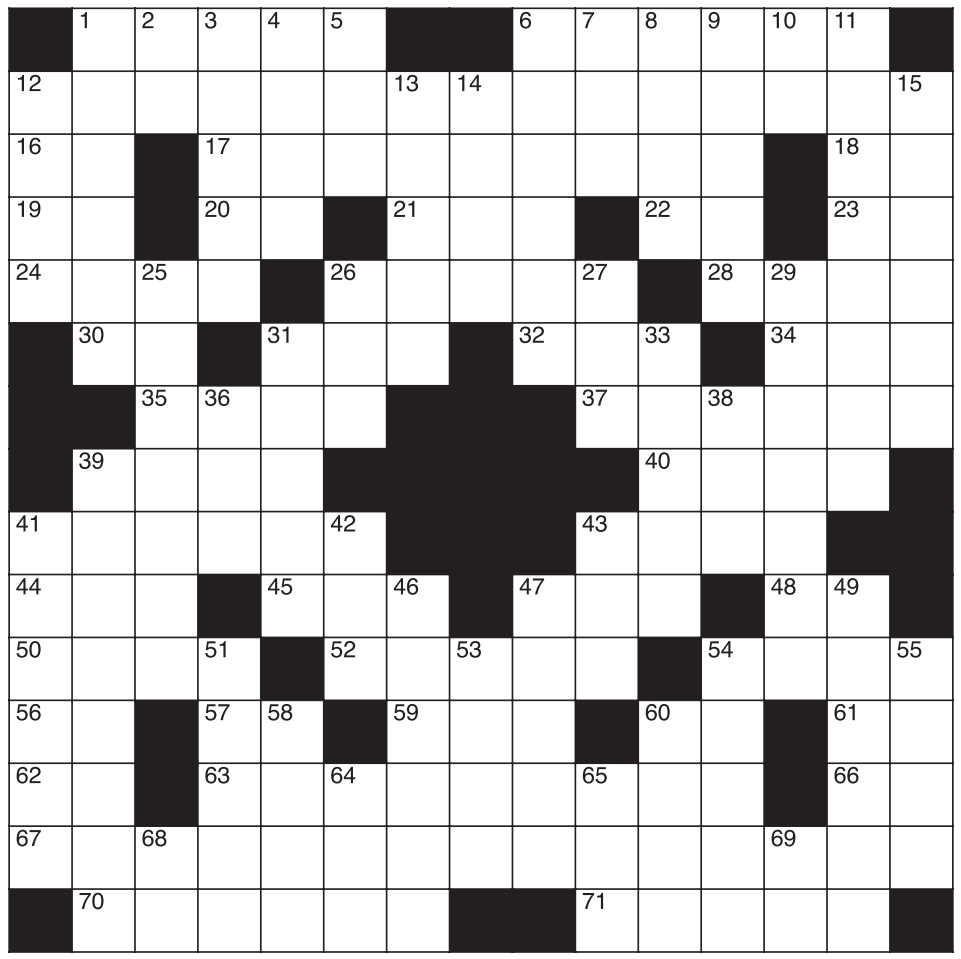
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 18



CLUES ACROSS
1. Notes
6. Long-haired dog breed
12. ESPNÕs nickname
16. Spanish be
17. Disadvantage
18. Of I
19. Actor Pacino
20. On your way: __ route
21. Fifth note of a major scale
22. Companies need it
23. News agency
24. Faces of an organization
26. Ponds
28. SamoaÕs capital
30. Partner to ÒPaÓ
31. Adult male
32. Cool!
34. Used of a number or amount not specified
35. No No No
37. Hosts film festival
39. British place to house convicts
40. Made of fermented honey and water
41. Chief
43. College army
44. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
45. Consume
47. One point north of due east
48. For instance
50. Brews
52. Alaskan river
54. Not soft
56. Atomic #22
57. "The Golden State"
59. "The world's most famous arena"
60. Larry and Curly's pal
61. One billion gigabytes
62. Conducts inspections
63. Malaria mosquitoes
66. Unit to measure width
67. Features
70. Affairs
71. Letter of Semitic abjads

CLUES DOWN
1. Follower of Islam
2. Trauma center
3. French young women
4. Norse god
5. U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
6. Merchant
7. Peyton's younger brother
8. Jungle planet in "Star Wars" galaxy
9. Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
10. "Pollack" actor Harris
11. Stuck around
12. Put on
13. Influential Norwegian playwright
14. Christian __, designer
15. Fulfills a debt
25. Style
26. More (Spanish)
27. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
29. Remedy
31. Disturbance
33. "The Martian" actor Matt
36. Express delight
38. Brooklyn hoopster
39. 1900 lamp
41. Motionless
42. One's mother (Brit.)
43. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
46. Compels to act
47. Gardening tool
49. Ancient country
51. Frightening
53. Wimbledon champion Arthur
54. Popular plant
55. Database management system
58. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
60. Where soldiers eat
64. Tenth month (abbr.)
65. Illuminated
68. Atomic #18
69. Adults need one to travel

Answers on page 18

Consultation on Heritage Plaque program underway

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

On Friday, June 20, the City of Kawartha Lakes announced their call requesting public consultation towards their Heritage Plaque Program.

Currently, historical plaques are sprinkled through the City of Kawartha Lakes, with higher concentrations around Lindsay.

To gather feedback, there is an online survey that asks the types of community sites people would like to see heritage plaques, City-owned sites that deserve plaques, preferred methods for nomination, and how people would like the plaques to be viewable.

"We have lots of really interesting and unique historic sites in Kawartha Lakes that might be considered for a plaque such as our historic cottage communities, older agricultural buildings or our large number of interesting churches that are unique to the city," said Emily Turner, economic development officer and heritage planner for the City of Kawartha Lakes. "We also have a lot of places in the City where we used to have buildings that are no longer there where plaques could be used to commemorate those sites and tell their stories such as a lot of our industrial buildings in Lindsay that have been demolished but are still really important to our local history."

The City also hopes the plaques will encourage tourists to look into local history and attract more visitors interested in their history.

"The goal of the program is to recognize the historic places in Kawartha Lakes that are important to local residents," said Turner. "We have had many requests over the years from community members who would like to see local historic places recognized with plaques or interpretive panels so we are launching this program to respond to that request."

Some heritage properties that are close to Haliburton County include the Gilmour House, Austin Sawmill and Kinmount United Church, and the Norland School There are also several heritage properties in Coboconk including the Coboconk Train Station and Jail.

"The intention of the program is to create plaques for a variety of historic sites in Kawartha Lakes in both the smaller and larger communities to make sure that we are recognizing sites across the municipality," said Turner. "We are still determining the process of deciding where plaques will be located since we will be able to only create a limited number of plaques per year, but are not intending on prioritizing communities based on population."

Even the smallest areas in the City of Kawarth Lakes can have their voices heard and get recognized for its historical significance. To share your thoughts and answer their survey, please visit jumpinkawarthalakes.ca/heritage-plaque-program. Physical paper copies of the survey will be made available by request and can be submitted to the City.

The survey will only be available until Aug. 15, so do not delay.

All safe in Minden fire

A large house fire occurred two weeks ago on Mountain Lake, with the cause undetermined at this time. All involved are safe. The blaze took over four hours to quell, with Minden Hills Fire Department receiving support from Algonquin Highlands Station 80 in Stanhope, as well as Dysart crews. "If you see a fire, get out and stay out," said Minden Hills fire chief Don Kruger. "Call 911 and do not re-enter the building." Kruger shared that call volume is up over 40 per cent this year over last, and they are preparing for a busy summer ahead. /Reported by Emily Stonehouse, photo submitted

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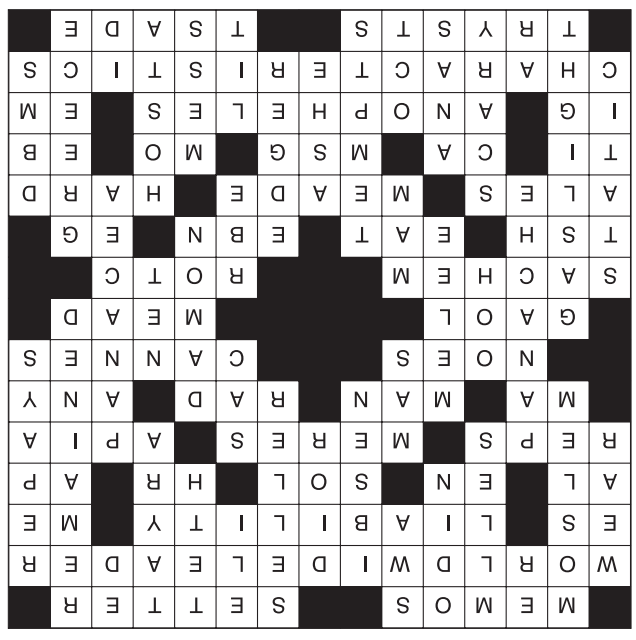
Highlands Summer Fest fun

Urinetown has officially hit the stage at the Highlands Summer Festival, bringing music, magic, and just the right amount of mayhem. The well-known musical satire incorporates timely political dialogue, while including catchy songs, humour, and heartwarming moments. It's fun for the whole family, and will be playing from July 1 to July 8 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The show kicks off a stacked lineup of performances and plays slated for the summer months. Visit www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca to puchase tickets, or to see the full calendar of events. /TIM YANO staff photographer

SUDOKU SOLUTION

3	4	6	2	8	9	1	5	7
2	1	9	4	7	5	3	6	8
8	5	7	3	6	1	4	2	9
4	7	8	5	2	3	6	9	1
5	2	3	9	1	6	7	8	4
9	6	1	8	4	7	2	3	5
7	3	2	1	5	8	9	4	6
6	8	4	7	9	2	5	1	3
1	9	5	6	3	4	8	7	2

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Hal High Monthly

Hal High Monthly is written by the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School leadership class featuring monthy school news.

Submitted by: Keira Alden (Gr. 11), Erika Hoare (Gr. 12), Alex Humphrey (Gr. 10), Kay Loney (Gr. 10), Payton Somers (Gr. 11)

This is the final Red Hawks wrap up for the 2024-2025 year! June saw a number of massive events helping to bring this year to a close, with all the sports seasons ending, a very successful Pride Week, a Powwow hosted right in our own gym and many other exciting events.

Sports at Hal High officially came to a close with our 45th annual athletic banquet and awards ceremony celebrating all of our incredible athletes. Cheyenne Degeer and Graham Backus were the 2024-2025 athletes of the year. Hailey Smith and Vanik Logan were this year›s Rising Red Hawks. Mr. Paul Klose was recognized for his support and coaching to the athletic program over his years of coaching.

Track and field sent 16 individual athletes and six relay teams to compete at OFSAA East regionals, with many personal bests and top finishes. Five athletes advanced to OFSAA. Addison Parish led the hawks with a silver medal in Junior Girls triple jump and 10th in Junior Girls long jump. Fynn Gooley jumped to a 7th place finish in Junior Boys long jump. Cheyenne Degeer in Senior Girls 400m hurdles, Annika Gervais in Novice Girls 800m, and Luke Gruppe in Novice Boys discus all represented Hal High with amazing sportsmanship and performances.

It was an amazing soccer season! With a team of 20 girls, they took first place in their division. They won their games in Kawartha, and the team did incredibly well at COSSA, but unfortunately didn›t take the win. Even though they lost, the team surpassed their expectations. They were a great team that worked hard throughout their whole season and we hope to see more success from them in future seasons.

As the sports season wraps up, so does Hal High›s chess club. With eight members, the club had regular chess games all building up for their final tournament against LCVI. The final tournament was full of incredible plays and strong competition! This year›s champion is Kevin Jones, having even defeated last year›s champion, Nicholas Duszak. The club is hoping to see even more people as well as some of their returning players next year.

The Leadership class at Hal high has had a very busy month. Hal High kicked off Pride month and our very own Pride Week with spirit days, a dramatic reading and coffee house and our annual color run. The color run was our biggest event, with support from Minden Pride, Haliburton County Library, the Youth Hub and Ctrl-ART-Del. Hal High also hosted TLDSB executives for an Educational Powwow and Drum Circle. With students from ASES, JDHES, SBES and HHSS it was a very successful day. The students learned about Indigenous culture and got to do some dancing in the dance circle.

During our Pride Week here at Hal High, we did our first dramatic reading! Hosted as a collaboration between the high school and Ctrl-ART-Del, it was a dramatic reading of a play set in the 1990s called *She Kills Monsters*. The main character Agnes is a cheerleader grieving over the death of her younger sister, Tilly. In her grief she discovers a D&D adventure written by her sister and decides to play it. In the process, Agnes goes on an adventure to free the Lost Soul of Athens, battling foes and ultimately learning more about her beloved younger sister.

The show went incredibly well, and we hope to do many more dramatic readings in the future!

HHSS graduating students celebrated at Prom on May 31st at Sir Sam's. Many students attended, making it a great night. Now the Red Hawks wrote their exams at the end of June, and Hal High celebrated its 85 graduates on June 26.

Hal High has had an incredible year full of activities, sports, and fun! From all the students at HHSS we are beyond grateful and thankful for all of our teachers, secretaries, educational assistants, custodians, principal and vice principal. Thank you for supporting Hal High Monthly. Happy summer!

Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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Minden Legion
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July 6, 2025

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation
provides housing for seniors and families in 3 locations in the village of Minden.

We are currently seeking a reliable and hard-working Cleaning/Maintenance Assistant with good work ethics and able to work independently to join our team. This position is responsible for the cleanliness, safety and minor maintenance of our buildings and properties. This is currently a part-time position, being 22.5 hours per week.

This position is responsible for the cleanliness and maintenance of Staanworth's facilities.

Primary duties include maintaining cleanliness of all building entrances, hallways, common rooms, washrooms, laundry and garbage rooms.
Secondary duties include minor repairs to apartments, painting, assistance to the maintenance supervisor with move-out procedures, garbage transport to landfills and yard maintenance. Job description is available on request.

Successful applicants will have experience in cleaning, and a sound knowledge of employment safety regulations. WHMIS certification is desired. A driver's license and abstract plus a vulnerable police check will be required.

This position includes employer paid benefits (medical, dental, vision and life insurance).
The wage will commence at $18 - $20 per hour, commensurate with experience.
Start date; July 21, 2025.

Please submit your resume no later than 4:30 p.m. - July 11, 2025, to:
Staanworth Non-Profit Housing, 44 Parkside Street, Minden, KOM 2KO
or email to office@staanworth.ca

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of
John Francis Rouble

John passed away June 22, 2025 at the age of 92 and has bequeathed his body to the Schulich School of Medicine at the University of Western Ontario

Predeceased by his parents, Catherine and Ambrose Rouble; children, Catherine Ann and John Christopher; brother Ambrose Joseph; and his dearly beloved wife and best friend Carol Joan. Their marriage of 68 years was a journey of love and dedication to each other. Carol's encouragement, steady guidance, pristine character, common sense, sturdy support, Irish wit and humour, were a bedrock of a wonderful life together. Survived by daughter Kimberly Rouble; granddaughters Michelle Rouble-Melino, Kaitlynn MacKinnon, Samantha Rouble; great grandchildren Catherine, Logan, Aurora; and his brother Paul. John graduated high school from Assumption College school and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours from the University of Windsor. He then received his teaching certificate and later his Masters Degree from the University of Toronto. He found the vocation he loved as an educator and spent 32 years in the profession in various roles including teacher, guidance counsellor, principal, and superintendent. He was awarded for many accomplishments in his life, including earning the Silver Cross for Gallantry at the age of 16 for saving a person from drowning in the Welland River, and earning the Bronze Medal for Bravery and the Star of Courage for saving a couple who's snow mobile plunged through the ice in Haliburton, something he took pride in doing alongside his son Chris. John very much enjoyed volunteering his services for the Cadet program in the NWT. He was also a proud Rotarian that was involved in several Rotary Clubs throughout his life including Haliburton, Yellowknife, and Wailuku before being awarded a lifetime honorary embership with the St. Mary's Rotary Club. Upon his retirement, one of John's biggest passions in life became travelling with his soulmate, jetting across the world and riding together in the fifth wheel, having unlimited adventures and making memories to last a lifetime. When not gallivanting around the world, he enjoyed spending time at the cottage and being with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He will be missed by many, but the memories he made with everyone will last forever. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at HOLY NAME OF MARY PARISH, Northeast corner of Peel St. N. and Widder ST. E., St. Marys, on Monday, June 30, 2025 at 11 am. Reception in the Parish Hall to follow. Memorial donations can be made to Golden Years at Wildwood Care Centre, St. Marys or the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

Classifieds

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Deadline Friday at 12 pm

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Valerie Elizabeth (Beth) Titus (nee Hughes)

Passed away peacefully at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Monday, June 23, 2025, at the age of 78.

Beloved wife of the late David Roger Titus (August 7, 2007). Loving mother of Carol Anne Moore (Jim Moore) of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Robbie Titus (Celine) of Sudbury, Ontario. Dear Grammy of Chrissy (Kevin) and Madison and special Great Grammy of Mason. Dear sister of the late Blake Hughes (Joyce), Lynn Cox (Wayne), Dana Mann (Carl) and Aunt to Amy, Rachel, Meghan, Orie and Special Second Mom to Chris "Chunk" Maynard. The family would like to acknowledge the wonderful support, knowledge and care by our extended "sister" family member Jill Stamp Brown.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Friday, July 25, 2025 from11:00 am until the time of the Memorial Service to Celebrate Beth's Life at 12:30 pm. Interment at Minden Cemetery. Reception to follow at the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Cremation has taken place

Memorial Donations to the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated by the family.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Letters? We got 'em! Rock the Wake a big topic of conversation for writers
Haliburton Highlands Secondary School hosts games for the first time
Local veterinarian wants to save turtles (in this issue of County Life)

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2005 VOL. 122 NO. 26 $1 INCL. GST

Vacant council seat ignites hostility

Councillors balk when delegation insists that Jim Henwood replace Bob Nichol

LANCE CROSSLEY
Staff Reporter

An uneasy atmosphere permeated Dysart's council meeting last week as two local residents strongly advocated that Jim Henwood be the one to fill the council seat recently vacated by Bob Nichol.

The impromptu delegations came from Henwood supporters Derek Knowles and Greg Gough. Each made his case separately in a dialogue with council that started out passionate and eventually ended up hostile. Henwood, who did not ask the men to speak on his behalf, was on hand for the scene but remained quiet while the banter ensued.

It started with Derek Knowles, who lost to Councillor Al Ferguson in the last election, telling council that any scenario in which Henwood was not awarded the seat would be "unfair". Henwood lost the last election to Nichol by a handful of votes, leading Henwood to request a recount to confirm the winner.

"Look at it this way," said Knowles, "the people of Ward 1 [Haliburton Village] said we'll either take Mr. Nichol or Mr. Henwood, but we'll give Mr. Nichol first shot. So I think we can honestly say the people have spoken."

Council officially declared the seat vacant on June 6, a few days after Nichol told the township he could no longer ful-

See **Henwood** *page 3*

Injured cyclist on road to recovery

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Jamie Doan, the young motorcyclist injured in an accident on June 12, is doing better with each passing day.

Although there were very few physical injuries, his head injuries were deeply worrying in the days following the accident.

By Friday, however, Doan had been moved to a regular ward at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto and was showing signs of constant improvement.

"A lot of his memory is coming back," his father, Scott Doan, says. His memory of things past – apart from the accident – is good and his memory of the here and now is "a bit iffy."

"He's doing a lot better," Scott Doan says.

Jamie's only other injury is a broken shoulder bone in his back.

On June 11, the 21-year-old was riding his motorcycle on Ritchie Falls Road near Donald. He was with two friends on a motorcycle and a friend on an ATV.

They crested a hill and discovered that the road had been washed out by the rain. Doan was thrown from his motorcycle, as was 19-year-old Gregory Harrison. Harrison, however, received only minor injuries.

Doan was transported by ambulance to Haliburton Hospital and then airlifted to Toronto.

MARTHA PERKINS/Echo

While the adults worried about washed-out roads and flooded basements, Emily and Jonah Stonehouse swam right up to the centre line of the Harburn Road after a burst beaver dam covered their neighbours' yard in water.

Rain, rain would not go away

Weather puts a damper on everything from roads to electricity

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Brad Willing knows how to describe "the calm before the storm."

On Monday night around 10 o'clock, the rain that had been calmly pouring down on Fort Irwin stopped. Everything was eerily calm. And then the storm hit.

"All of a sudden the rain just came down," says Willing, who owns Fort Irwin Marina. "You couldn't see 10 feet in front of you.

"It happened so fast. Three minutes, if that. The wind was gone."

So was the electricity. The next morning, however, it was back on in time for Willing to be watching the Weather Network. The announcer mentioned that there had been several tornadoes, including one in Fort Irwin.

Willing was shocked. It was the first time he's ever heard Fort Irwin mentioned on television.

Pat and Cheryl Kennedy woke up tha morning to discover that they had water

See **Trial by flood** *page*

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Show and shine

It was a hot one outside, but that didn't slow down the Kinsmen Club of Minden from hosting their annual Truck Pull Show and Shine at the Minden Fairgrounds this past Saturday. The event always welcomes spectators of all ages to check out the variety of trucks, as well as taste the food and drinks available. This year, the club offered a cornhole tournament, with plenty of prizes to be won. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

July 31 – Regular Council Meeting
August 14 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

WATCH FOR WORKERS

Construction season is here. Keeping a work site safe includes everyone. Slow down and watch for workers when approaching road work sites.

DROP-IN PROGRAMS

Take a look at the new summer drop-in program schedule now online at www.mindenhills.ca/reacreation or at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) DAY

Mark your calendars for our next HHW day taking place Saturday, July 19, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Please ensure you have your valid waste disposal card. For full details and a list of accepted items, please visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste for more information.

REQUEST FOR TENDERS: CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCOTCH LINE TRANSFER STATION

Qualified contractors are invited to submit a tender for the construction of the new Scotch Line Transfer Station. Visit https://www.mindenhills.ca/en/local-government/bid-opportunities.aspx for the Tender details and documents. donations welcome. Protect your privacy and give back to the community.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancy:

- Manager of Road Operations

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *Mountain Lake at a Glance – The Hidden Nature of Paint*, an exhibit by Gord Peteran, is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until July 12. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

• Join us for a special screening of *Incandescence (2024)* at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Thursday, July 3 at 1:00 pm. The documentary explores fire as a force of both destruction and renewal. Township of Minden Hills' Fire Chief, Don Kruger, will give a short introduction before the film, sharing local insights on fire safety and community preparedness. Admission is free, and all ages are welcome. No pre-registration is required. The documentary is provided courtesy of the National Film Board (NFB).

• Join the UFOs (Unfinished Objects) craft group at the Cultural Centre on Friday, July 4 at 1 pm. All are welcome to bring their crafty projects to work on.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are now open for the season! Daily drop-in programs are offered at 11 am, Tuesday to Saturday. Coming this week: Thursday – No-Bake Salt Dough craft, Friday – Toddler Discovery Zone, Saturday – Mini Scarecrow craft. We are open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

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